

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been discussing the issue of homework as a staff over the past year and the impact it has on children and families. Since the onset of the pandemic, many families have suffered with their mental health and children in particular have found things difficult. As a church school, we feel that high-quality family time is vital for the children in our care. Many parents feel stressed when engaging in homework tasks with their child. This can sometimes lead to flashpoints in the family home. Quite often, homework is not completed by the children through no fault of their own.

We feel that homework has little impact on the children's learning and this has been supported by the latest educational research. Holy Trinity will not be setting any homework from next half term (Monday 6th June 2022). The focus will be on reading. It is imperative that children read at home; this can take many forms such as reading stories to your child, sharing stories together and hearing your child read their school reading book. These times are special and hopefully will be part of the children's daily experiences.

Below are some questions and answers which may help to answer any concerns you may have.

At secondary school my child will be getting a lot of homework. How will Holy Trinity be preparing my child for this?

Secondary schools differ in their approach to homework. Year 7 children do not have as much homework as older children and sometimes have less than children in our Year 4 class at Holy Trinity. Children in Year 6 will continue to be supported to make a successful transition to secondary school. This will take the form of taster days, themed activity days, completing transition packs with the children and liaising with the local secondary school.

Homework helps me to know what my child is doing in their class. How will I know what they are doing and more importantly how I can support them?

The termly topic letter outlines what the children are going to be learning each term. In addition to this, subject based knowledge organisers will be housed on our website for parents to have an even clearer understanding of what their child will be learning from September 2022.

Parents' Evenings offer a regular chance for your child's class teacher to discuss your child's progress. If you are worried, you can talk to your child's teacher briefly at the beginning or end of the school day or contact them via enquiries@holytrinitycalne.wilts.sch.uk If a teacher is worried or concerned about your child's progress, please be assured that we will never wait for a Parents' Evening, but will deal with any issue at the earliest opportunity.

As Parents' Evenings are done remotely, I no longer have an opportunity to see my child's work. How can I see what my child is doing?

The school will schedule three drop-in sessions over the course of the academic year. Each session will be an hour long (from 3pm – 4pm) and will give parents the opportunity to come into school and share their child's work. From the new academic year, we will schedule these from September so parents are given plenty of opportunity to attend. The class teacher will be in attendance, but will not be using the time as an additional parents' evening.

The School Cloud remote Parents' Evenings continue to prove popular and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from parents, who value the flexibility that this offers.

If my child is not doing homework, what would the school like me to do to support my child's learning/development?

We would encourage your child to continue reading and discussing the world around them. We will be signposting parents to other websites and local events. At Holy Trinity, we believe that children are life-long learners and that learning does not stop at the school gate at 3.30pm.

My child is in receipt of a My Support Plan, will they receive extra support?

Your child will continue to receive in-school support from the adults at Holy Trinity. Mrs Fergusson (our SENCO) will oversee this and will be able to talk to parents how they could best support their child at home. Home learning tasks for children with a My Support Plan will not be regular and will be used to support the provision highlighted in the My Support Plan. If your child uses Nessy or a similar program, they will be able to continue using it.

We will be keeping this under review and will discuss it annually at a Parents Forum in the Summer Term 2023.

Kind regards

Graham Shore

Headteacher